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JUNE 15, 1885

PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM
AND
SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIAL ART
PHILADELPHIA

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Museum News

New granolithic and asphalt walks and drives have recently been laid around Memorial Hall.

Handsome new railings and checking stand have been erected at the south entrance by the Fairmount Park Commissioners, in order to better control and accommodate the increasing crowds of visitors and for the improvement of the appearance of the Hall.

The Fairmount Park Commissioners have secured from City Councils the necessary appropriation for enclosing the West Arcade, or open court, to the left of the entrance to the building, corresponding with the room on the right, which was roofed in some years ago to accommodate the collection of Pompeian views. The new apartment, when finished, will be used for the collections of textiles and costumes, which will be moved from the west end of the building to provide much needed room for the overflow of paintings in the Wilstach collection. By securing this larger space, provision will be made for exhibiting many valuable fabrics which for some time have been stored away for lack of room to display them. The work of roofing and enclosing the open space will be commenced at an early day, and it is hoped that the textile collections will be arranged in their new and more commodious quarters before the end of the present year.

Additions to the Collections

Among the recent accessions to the Museum are the following:

A collection of Colonial and Continental paper money, numbering upward of 700 pieces, from Mr. John Story Jenks.

A valuable collection of Oriental pottery, consisting of about 200 pieces, the bequest of Dr. Francis W. Lewis.

A carved walnut folding chair of the sixteenth century, Italian; purchased.

Three handsomely carved and inlaid cabinets—Italian, German and Spanish—of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries,

given in the name of Elizabeth W. Lewis, through Miss Mary and Miss Sarah Lewis.

A unique collection of antique and modern Japanese tobacco pipes, a gift from a lady friend of the Museum.

A series of antique wood carvings from dismantled temples and palaces in Japan, presented by Mr. John T. Morris and Mr. John Story Jenks; two antique carved altar tables from funds contributed by visitors through the contribution boxes in the Museum.

A handsome large gold lacquer bowl of Japanese workmanship, with raised figures in ivory, given by Mr. and Mrs. Amos R. Little.

Relabeling the Collections

The work of relabeling the objects in the Museum is progressing rapidly. A black card with beveled gilt edge, in gold-printed lettering, has been adopted for uniform use, which will supersede the pen and ink and typewritten labels formerly used. The new cards are less conspicuous than the old ones, are more easily read and present a much better appearance. They are used in connection with neat black wooden mounts, which replace the square walnut blocks previously in use. The new labels are being printed on the Museum press.

New Cases

During the past year many of the antiquated exhibition cases in various parts of the Museum have been retired and new cases of approved pattern have been procured to take their places.

In the Southeast Pavilion, occupied by the pottery and porcelain of the Bloomfield Moore collection, handsome new plate glass sectional cases have been built around the entire wall space, through the generosity of Mr. Clarence B. Moore.

In the Textile Room suitable new wall cases have been constructed around one-half of the wall space, out of the appropriation made by City Councils for the purpose, and in the Southeast Pavilion another large wall case has been erected out of the same fund.

Four floor cases of ebonized cherry wood and plate glass have been furnished by Miss Sarah and Miss Mary Lewis, to accommodate the Dr. Francis W. Lewis collection of Oriental porcelain, and two additional cases of the same pattern have been made for the collections of glass in the main gallery.

Two plate glass wall cases have been constructed in the Southeast Pavilion, in which the Hector Tyndale collection of pottery and porcelain has been arranged. Several other wall cases have been built by the Museum carpenter for the collections of old pewter and iron. Numerous other cases have been improved, including the Chinese cases of the Centennial Exhibition, the horizontal pockets of which have been covered with plate glass, by which means considerable additional exhibition space for the Oriental collections is secured. There is pressing need, however, of several floor cases in the rotunda for other collections, which are temporarily stored away for lack of case room.

Museum Handbooks

A series of illustrated art handbooks is now in course of preparation, which will be issued as rapidly as possible. Among these may be mentioned: